HEY.

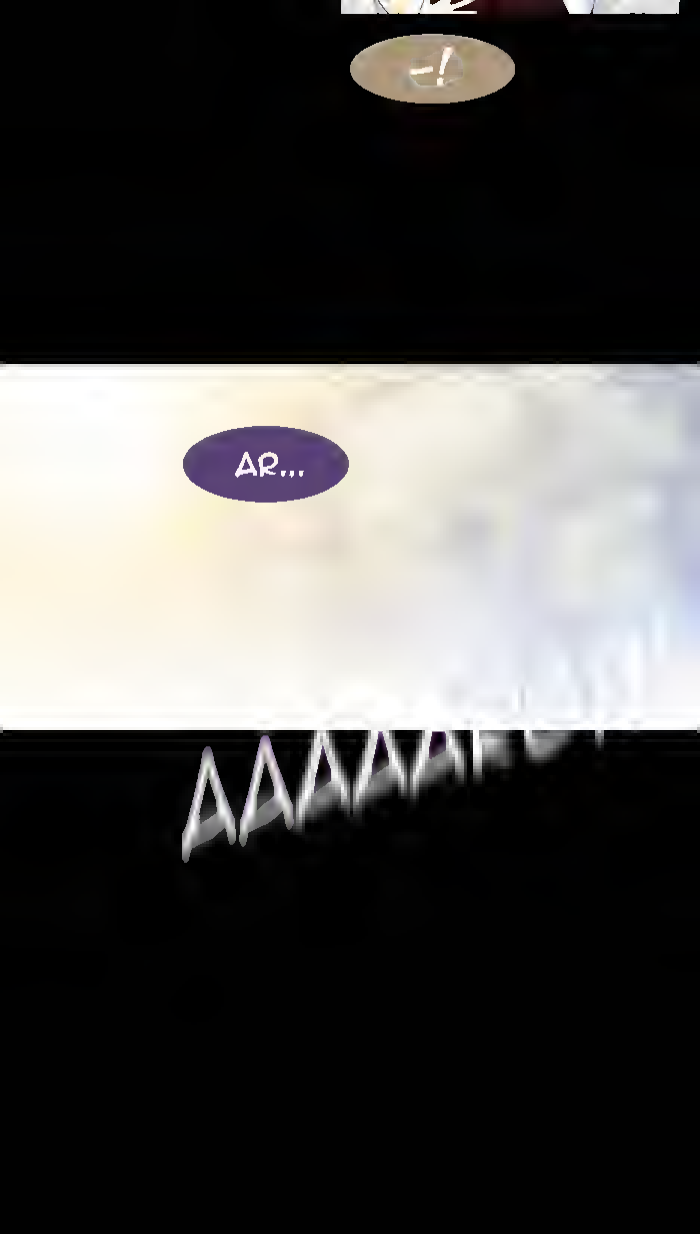
WHAT DO YOU WANT...?
GOOD. KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED.
DON'T OPEN THEM YET.
SOMEBODY MIGHT SMACK YOU IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD IF YOU DO.
SSH...
-WHO WOULD DO THAT? YOU?

WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK I MEAN BY NEWBIE, WHEN YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE NEW HERE?

-?
-!
IT'S THE BALL HE WANTS!! JUST GIVE IT TO HIM, KASIN!

THEM..?
DO I LOOK LIKE YOU?
TROT
YOU CAN GIVE IT TO ME LATER. JUST COME HERE FOR A SEC, NEWBIE.
TROT
NOW, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
-WHAT FOO?
TAP TAP--
YOU'D BE GRATEFUL TO BE TALKING WITH ME. DON'T TALK BACK.
IS HE MAD AT ME OR SOMETHING...?

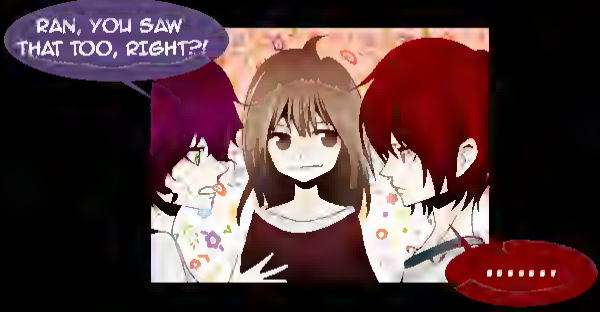
AROUND HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T MIND US AND GET LOST.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO OPEN YOUR EYES YET.
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME WHAT YOU JUST DID LATER ON, OKAY?
!


-!
AR...
AAAAAA

!
BEING
SCREWED.

CAN I OPEN MY EYES NOW...
YEAH!!!! OF COURSE!
YOU STILL DIDN'T OPEN THEM?!
CRASH!!!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!!

WHAT DID YOU DO?
THERE WERE SOME PIMPLES ON YOUR BACK!
WHAT THE HELL?!! WHAT WAS THAT?!
I THINK I JUST SAW SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE A SNAIL!!!


RAN, YOU SAW THAT TOO, RIGHT?!
.....

THERE WAS A SNAIL ON...
EYE ATTACK.

AS MOM
TAUGHT US
THE 73RD BOX

IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE A GENIUS?

TURNING KASIN INTO A SNAIL...! THAT'S TOO MEAN!
I JUST DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
WHAT YOU HAD TO DO?
IT'S ONLY BEEN A DAY SINCE HE CAME HERE, BUT SENIKA'S BODY IS ALREADY SHOWING SOME STRANGE SYMPTOMS.
I KNOW THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS DEVELOPING SOME KIND OF IMMUNOTHERAPY, BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE. I JUST CAN'T SIT STILL AND WAIT FOR THEM TO FINISH THEIR JOB.

SO I CAME UP WITH "CIRCULATIVE REFLEX MAGIC".

CIRCULATIVE REFLEX MAGIC? ISN'T THAT NORMALLY USED IN BATTLES?

IT IS MAGIC THAT REFLECTS THE OPPONENT'S MANA BY ROTATING IT IN A CIRCLE AND GIVES BACK TO THAT PERSON DIRECTLY.

AND I JUST USED THAT CONCEPT.

AS LONG AS IT'S NOT ATTACK MANA, THE PERSON DOESN'T TAKE ANY DAMAGE BY RECEIVING HIS OWN MANA.
WHICH MEANS, HE WON'T GET HURT AT ALL EVEN IF I SEND HIS MANA BACK TO HIM.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU CIRCULATE YOUR MANA FROM YOUR RIGHT THUMB TO THE LEFT THUMB, IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR BODY AT ALL.

BUT CIRCULATING AND REFLECTING SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT OF AIR WASN'T AS EASY, SO...
I CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF A "VORTEX" WHEN I SAW YOUR SNAIL.
BUT IT FAILED BECAUSE THE SNAIL SHELL POPPED UP ON HIS BACK...
THEN KASIN WILL NOTICE IT..!

NOPE!
THANKS TO THE FAILURE EARLIER, I'VE GOT AN EVEN CLEARER IDEA.
IT'S HIS HAIR.
BY USING THIS, I'LL CREATE A SNAIL THAT WON'T DIE EVEN IF IT EATS KASIN'S AIR.

A MAGICAL SNAIL?!
I'LL MAKE AN IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR HIS MANA BY MANIPULATING THE DNA OF YOUR SNAIL.
OF COURSE IT WILL BE BEST IF WE DO IT ON SENIKA'S BODY, BUT SINCE WE CAN'T DO THE CLINICAL TEST FOR NOW, WE'LL TEST IT ON THE SNAIL FIRST

A MAGICAL SNAIL THAT CAN SUCK UP ALL THE MANA KASIN RELEASES.
THE RANGE WILL ONLY BE AROUND THREE METERS, THOUGH...
I'LL TRY TO MAKE HIM USE HIS MANA. YOU MAKE SURE THAT SNAIL STAYS WITHIN THREE METERS OF HIM.
THEN... LET'S GET GOING.

DON'T TALK BACK AND ATTACK ME.
ARE YOU SCARED?
RAN
WAS...

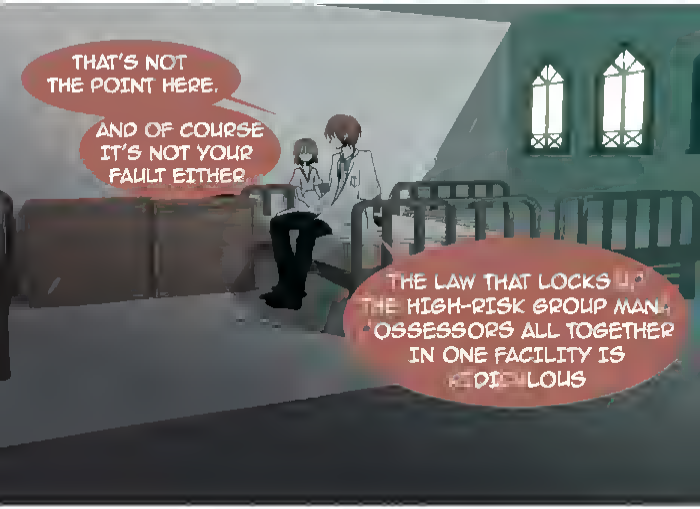
THIS MUST SUCCEED AT ALL COSTS.

HEY, NEWBIE. ARE YOU THAT STRONG?
I HEARD THAT YOU BLEW UP A WHOLE SWEET POTATO PLOT. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
WHAT...? YOU THINK I'M A BOAR OR SOMETHING...?
P...PAN...! WHAT KIND OF BULLSHIT IS THAT...?

SERIOUS, BUT...

HE DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO USE HIS MANA...
THUD..
KYU...?
RAN BELLENEPIA
0 WIN 1 LOSS 1 FIGHT

SO, THE SNAIL IS STILL IN AN INCOMPLETE STATE.
ITS SIZE IS ONLY EXPANDING AS A SIDE EFFECT...
AND RAN ONLY GOT BEATEN UP FOR BEING BORN WEAK.
THE GIRL... WAS STOLE BECAUSE OF ME...?


THAT'S NOT THE POINT HERE.
AND OF COURSE IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT EITHER
THE LAW THAT LOCKS UP THE HIGH-RISK GROUP MANA POSSESSORS ALL TOGETHER IN ONE FACILITY IS RIDICULOUS

RAN IS A HIGH-RISK GROUP MANA POSSESSOR, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, HE HAS THIS HUGE STRESS DISORDER FROM BEING THE ONLY CARE-TAKER OF A WEAK GIRL, SENIKA, IN HIS EARLIER AGE.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST A PERSONALITY DISORDER, BUT NOBODY WOULD KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE INSIDE..
I WON'T TELL YOU TO UNDERSTAND HIM.
BUT..
I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT HE IS ALSO A KID WHO WANTED TO DENY THE SITUATION HE WAS PUT INTO, AS MUCH AS YOU DO

THE REASON WHY I WAS AWAY FOR A WHILE WAS FOR THE CLINICAL TEST OF THE IMMUNOTHERAPY.

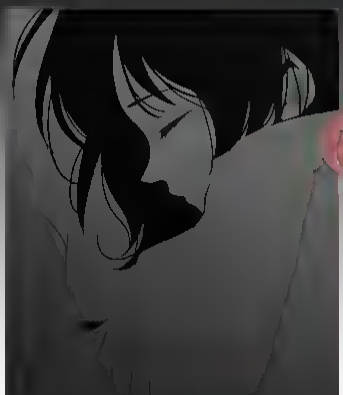
OF COURSE THE RESULTS WERE SUCCESSFUL.

THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING TO HIDE NOR CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS FROM HERE ON OUT.

SO NOW... I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THIS FACILITY IS.

IT'S SIMPLE.

UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW, THIS FACILITY ACCOMMODATES THE HIGH-RISK GROUP MANA POSSESSORS.
WHO POSSESS DANGEROUS MANA.



BUT WHO ARE ALSO HURT FOR BEING SO.

THIS IS A HOUSE FOR THOSE FOUR LITTLE KIDS

to be continued...